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No 7
MARCH-
APRIL

Romantic Adventures

The MAGAZINE OF YOUTH AND LOVE!

10¢

OH, HENRY, HENRY...DON'T TURN AWAY
FROM ME! IT'S TRUE I'VE GOT ONLY
ONE YEAR TO LIVE! BUT IT CAN BE A
YEAR OF HAPPINESS IF YOU PROMISE
TO LOVE ME AND STAY AT MY SIDE...
UNTIL THE END!

I... I LOVED
YOU... BUT
NOW...



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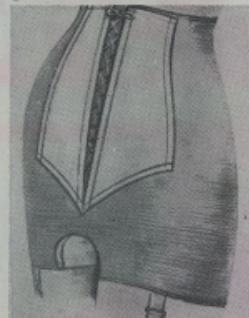
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SENT ON APPROVAL!

From RAGS to ROMANCE



"Ever hear of PYGMALION, reader—the ancient sculptor who carved an ivory statue which magically became the living, vibrant GALATEA? Well, HIS job was an easy one compared to MINE! I'm WAYNE YARDLEY, Park Avenue Playboy—who found his Galatea in the depths of the Florida swamps! It's a strange story—the story of the heart of a barefoot beggar girl—the tale of a man TORN BETWEEN TWO LOVES!"

"It all started one December day in Florida, where I WAS spending the winter—the day we decided to drive out into the backwoods swamps to see how the OTHER half lived!"

I'M GLAD IT'S WAYNE'S TURN TO DRIVE! IT GIVES ME A CHANCE TO SIT WITH YOU, ELOISE—EVEN IF YOU ARE HIS GIRL!

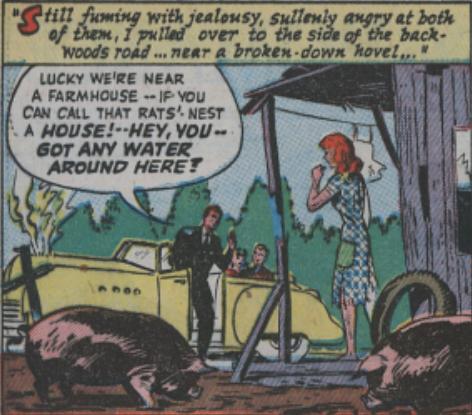
HEAR WHAT GORDON'S SAYING, WAYNE? HOPE IT MAKES YOU JEALOUS—CAUSE I THINK HE'S THE HANDSOMEST FRIEND YOU'VE GOT!

"I knew that Eloise was saying that merely because she enjoyed tantalizing me!"

But whenever she acted this way, I could never down the stab of pain in my heart!"

SHE KNOWS I'M SO DESPERATELY IN LOVE WITH HER... SHE THINKS SHE CAN DO ANYTHING SHE WANTS--!"

HEY-- I TOLD YOU NOT TO DRIVE SO FAST IN THIS HOT WEATHER! THE RADIATOR'S BOILING OVER!



"Yes, I felt the same way about the poor wretch as THEY did -- but my anger at them was fanned by their smugness, their snobbish Superiority! I must have deliberately picked that quarrel, not believing my own words..."



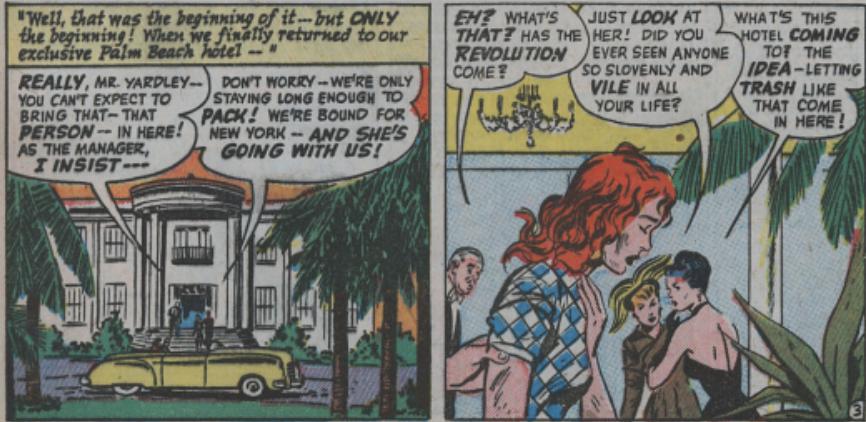
"I realized I'd gone too far -- was about to laugh the whole thing off as a joke! But then Eloise's cold smile and infuriating words made me lose complete control of myself!"

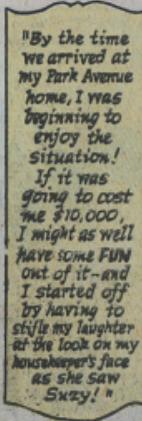


"I knew the insanity of it, even as I spoke! That grubby, filthy little slattern could NEVER be changed! But I COULDN'T back down now -- not when I'd have to endure Eloise's mocking, contemptuous laughter! I HAD to go through with it!"

ER -- HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO -- UH -- COME TO NEW YORK WITH ME -- SEE THE BIG CITY -- BECOME A LADY? YOU'LL HAVE EVERYTHING YOU WANT --







"In a burst of inspiration, I suddenly recalled the earring episode — and I realized how I could handle her!"

SUZY-YOU LIKE EARRINGS AND JEWELRY, DON'T YOU? WELL, IF YOU'RE GOOD AND PROMISE TO DO AS WE TELL YOU, I'LL GO OUT RIGHT NOW AND BUY YOU A HATFUL!"

YUH'LL REALLY GIT 'EM FER ME - BRACELETS AN' RINGS AN' EVERYTHIN'?
I... I PROMISE -- I'D DO ANYTHIN' FER JOOLERY!

"It worked! Exultantly, I left to shop for some clothes for Suzy — and for some 'JOOLERY!' "

IT'S NOT POISON — BUT I CAN SEE YOU STAYED AWAY FROM IT AS IF IT WERE! HEAVENS, WHAT A STATE YOU'RE IN — YOU'RE A MIGHTY LUCKY GIRL MR. YARDLEY TAKES AN INTEREST IN YOU! HE'LL CHANGE YOU — IF ANYBODY CAN!"

"Later..."

I SHOULD HAVE GONE OUT AND BOUGHT YOU CLOTHES! MR. YARDLEY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT SIZE YOU WORE, SO HE GOT THOSE — SINCE CALICO SHIRTS AND JEANS FIT ANYONE! BUT

AT LEAST
THEY'RE
CLEAN!
AIN'T THEY PURTY?
THESE ARE THE BESTEST CLOTHES I EVER HAD — I'M GOIN' DOWN AN' SHOW 'EM OFF TUH HIM!

"When Suzy came running to me in the clothes I'd bought, her eyes almost begging for approval and admiration, I knew she had at least ONE attribute of a woman — VANITY!"

THAT'S VERY NICE,
SUSANNAH — YOU LOOK VERY PRETTY! AND NOW THAT YOU'RE ALL CLEANED UP, WE'LL START RIGHT IN WITH OUR FIRST LESSON IN MAKING A LADY OUT OF YOU!

I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN!
— HERE IT IS!

OOOO! LOOK IT
'EM-SHININ'
LUCKY SHE NEVER HEARD
OF WOOLWORTH'S!
LIKE STARS!
GIMME!

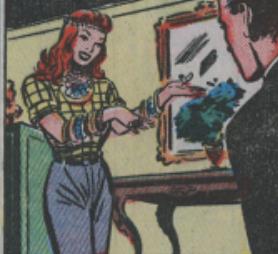


"Like a savage, she snatched away the trinkets I had purchased, strewed them gaudily over her person!"

Maybe this bet WAS going to turn out to be fun — right now I had to use all my power to keep from bursting into riotous laughter!"

THAR!
AIN'T I
PURTY?

YES, SUZY — YOU...
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY
LAUGHABLE — I MEAN,
LOVABLE!



"Then, with Suzy docile as a contented animal, our lessons started — "

DON'T SAY "AIN'T
I PRETTY?" SAY
"AM I NOT PRETTY?"

HUH, YOU AINT'
PURTY! OHH, I SEE
WHAT YUH
MEAN — AM
I NOT
PURTY?"

DOG... D-O-G!
CAT... C-A-T!

DOG...
D-O-
GEE WHIZ,
THIS SPELLIN'
IS HARD!



"Day after day,
week after week,
the lessons
continued!"

I soon
discovered
that Suzy had
an excellent
mind—and
she made
remarkable
progress,
considering
that her
heart
wasn't in it!"

NOW, THIS IS THE WAY CIVILIZED PEOPLE HOLD THEIR KNIVES AND FORKS WHEN THEY EAT!

GOSH, I DON'T SEE WHAT'S WRONG WITH FINGERS! BUT IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO —

"Then, one day..."

BACK STRAIGHT... CHIN UP... STOMACH IN—GOSH, THIS DICTIONARY IS HEAVY! HOW MUCH LONGER DO I HAVE TO KEEP THIS UP?

SUZY, I'VE GOT GREAT NEWS FOR YOU! YOU'VE MADE ASTOUNDING PROGRESS — AND I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME I SHOWED YOU OFF! I'M GOING TO INVITE TWO PEOPLE HERE TO DINNER, AND I WANT YOU TO BE AT YOUR VERY BEST!

"Yes, I wanted to be proud of the little human I'd fashioned out of an animal! I wanted to GLOAT over Elsie's discomfiture and Gordon's amazement! But I should have known what HER VERY BEST meant to Suzy

—for on the night of the dinner..."

HAW, HAW! IS THIS THE LADY YOU WANTED US TO SEE? YOU'D BETTER GIVE HER BACK TO THE INDIANS!

HA, HA -- IT'S THE FUNNIEST THING I'VE SEEN IN YEARS! YOU'RE A DARLING TO HAVE PUT ON THIS SHOW FOR US, WAYNE! SHE'S A RIOT!

OH, SUZY!

"I sensed the fury in Suzy's eyes — and knew that the thin veneer I had imposed upon her was being stripped away, revealing the barbaric primitive that still smoldered beneath!"

YOU — YOU BRING 'EM HERE SO'S THEY COULD LAUGH AT ME -- JEST LIKE LAST TIME! I'M A JOKE TO YOU — ALL OF YOU! I AINT GONNA TAKE IT NO MORE — I AINT!

SUZY — PLEASE LISTEN — AND DON'T SAY "AIN'T"!

I AIN'T LISTENIN'—
I AIN'T GONNA KEEP
YOUR DIRTY
PRESENTS—
HERE!

AN'I AIN'T GONNA
STAY HERE NO MORE!
I HATE YOU—ALL
OF YOU!

HEY!

SUZY—
WAIT!

"By the time I got to the door, Suzy had already burst out of the house! I saw her standing frozen with fear, trembling, lost in the maze of blaring traffic outside the house!"



"By the time I could thread my way through the traffic, she had seized upon an opening and fled like a desperate, frightened fawn to the safety of the sidewalk-- and collapsed there like a trapped animal, wracked with sobs!"



"I expected a fresh outburst of rage, and so I was momentarily stunned by the look of abject gratitude in her tear-streaked face-- as though I had rescued her from some horrible fate!"

WAYNE! YOU--YOU
CAME FOR ME! OH,
I WAS SO SCARED--
I LIKED TO DIE!
I... I DIDN'T MEAN
WHAT I SAID TO
YOU-- SAY YOU'LL
TAKE ME BACK
--PLEASE!

HUSH, SUZY--HUSH!
OF COURSE I'LL
TAKE YOU BACK!

"But Suzy's frightened sobs didn't stop! I guided her to a nearby park bench, tried to calm her fears! Casually, I brushed my lips against her cheek-- as I'd do to ANY terror-stricken child..."



I--I NEVER
EVEN
DREAMED
YOU--YOU
COULD
CARE--

THERE! NOW YOU'RE
ACTING SENSIBLY--
I TOLD YOU THERE'S
NO NEED FOR TEARS!
AND YOU DON'T HAVE
TO KEEP ON THANKING
ME-- JUST SHOW YOUR
GRATITUDE BY REALLY
TRYING TO ACT LIKE
A LADY FROM NOW
ON!



"From then on, Suzy underwent a remarkable change! I couldn't understand it--she threw herself enthusiastically into her lessons as if her heart were REALLY in it, and her progress was truly amazing! Finally--



"I WAS proud of my accomplishment at civilizing the little primitive I'd brought home! I determined to unveil her at one of Eloise's exclusive gatherings!"



"I couldn't
understand
the hurt,
stricken look
she turned
on me--
had I said
something to
offend her?
But then, she
forced herself
to turn bravely
toward the
crowd, and she
began
speaking,
stiffly,
painfully--"

TO BE A LADY... I MUST BE...
GRACEFUL... POLITE... CHARMING...
VI... VIVACIOUS...



"She'd certainly picked the wrong thing to say, but at least she'd shown her vocabulary!"

And when the applause and laughter broke out, my chest swelled with pride at my accomplishment!"

BRAVO!
BRAVO!
IT
TALKS!

YES SIR, YOU WOULDN'T THINK THAT ONLY A FEW MONTHS AGO, SUZY WAS A LITTLE SWAMP GIRL - JUST ONE STEP ABOVE THE ANIMAL KINGDOM! WHY, YOU COULD ALMOST MISTAKE HER FOR AN AVERAGE, NORMAL AMERICAN GIRL NOW!

HA, HA - YES, YOU COULD -- EXCEPT FOR THOSE CLOTHES SHE'S WEARING! IF THAT'S YOUR IDEA OF WHAT THE WELL-DRESSED LADY SHOULD WEAR, WAYNE -- I'M AFRAID ELOISE IS GOING TO HAVE TROUBLE WITH YOU!

NOTHING YOU CAN SAY WILL DETRACT FROM MY TRIUMPH -- AND RIGHT NOW, I'M GOING TO CELEBRATE WITH A COUPLE OF DRINKS!

THEY'VE HAD THEIR LAUGH! HE - HE'S NOT EVEN PAYING ATTENTION TO ME - NO ONE IS! I - I WANT TO GET AWAY FROM THEM. HIDE SOMEWHERE!

NO ONE'S IN THIS ROOM - OHHH! ALL THOSE PRETTY DRESSES! AND THEY WERE LAUGHING AT MY CLOTHES! I - I WONDER - MAYBE IF I WORE ONE OF THESE --

GEE, IT SURE IS PRETTY! BUT MY HAIR - IT... IT'S NOT LIKE THE WAY OTHER WOMEN HAVE IT! BUT MAYBE I CAN FIX THAT, TOO!

THERE -- THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! MAYBE -- MAYBE HE'LL LOVE ME MORE NOW -- EVEN KISS ME AGAIN! I'LL GO DOWN AND SHOW HIM RIGHT NOW!

"In the midst of a drink, I suddenly felt a hush come over the room, sensed an electrifying air of tension!"

WHO - WHO'S THAT? WHY, SHE'S LOVELY - BREATHAKINGLY BEAUTIFUL!

"I looked toward the spot where all eyes were focused - and stood stunned with amazement at the radiant vision that met my astounded gaze!"

GOOD HEAVENS, IT... IT'S JUST NOT POSSIBLE! THAT'S SUZY!



"Before I could recover from my shock, all the other men in the room had swarmed about Suzy, surrounded her, each one trying to win her glance! And I - I knew I couldn't stay away, either!"

I - I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT! I'VE GOT TO GET TO HER ---

OH, NO YOU DON'T, WAYNE YARDLEY! HOW DARE you look at HER that way? ARE YOU FORGETTING WE'RE ENGAGED?



I WON'T STAND FOR YOUR ACTING THAT WAY! IF - IF I EVER CATCH YOU LOOKING AT HER LIKE THAT...

HE - HE'S GOING IN THERE - WITH HER!



SO YOU DON'T WANT A SCENE, EH? WHAT'S THE MATTER - AFRAID PEOPLE WILL FIND OUT THAT YOU - YOU'RE REALLY INTERESTED IN THAT SUZY OF YOURS?

DON'T BE SILLY, ELOISE! YOU KNOW MY ONLY INTEREST IN HER IS TO WIN THAT BET BY CHANGING HER FROM THE SAVAGE SHE IS INTO AT LEAST A HALF-BAKED IMITATION OF A WOMAN! AS SOON AS I'VE COLLECTED, I'LL SEND HER BACK TO THE SWAMP-RATS SHE BELONGS WITH!

"I knew that my words were cruel, but there was a wild elation in my heart - for I realized that Eloise had finally shown JEALOUSY! Wasn't this what I sought - some indication of love from the woman who'd always held me at arm's length? There was more surrender in her eyes as I clasped her to me - "

I COULDN'T EVER LOVE ANYONE ELSE BUT YOU, SWEETHEART!

OHHH, YOU... YOU FAITHLESS, LYING -!



SUZY! YOU!

YES -- ME -- THE SWAMP-RAT! AND I... I THOUGHT YOU LOVED ME THAT DAY YOU RAN AFTER ME AND KISSED ME! THAT WAS WHY I TRIED SO HARD TO BE THE KIND OF LADY I THOUGHT YOU WANTED ME TO BE! BUT IT WAS ALL FOR A BET - YOU JUST WANTED ME TO BE A LAUGHING-STOCK!



I -- I GUESS YOU WERE RIGHT, THOUGH - ABOUT ME BEING A SAVAGE! HERE - I'LL PROVE IT!

HEY--- OWW!





"Desperately,
I redoubled my
efforts to find
Suzy - to find
MY LOVE!

Once again,
failure - and
I flung myself
into one
distraction
after another
in an attempt
to drown the
anguished love
in my heart!
Then, at one of
Elouise's parties
one day..."

ALL RIGHT, QUIET, EVERYONE!
THE BLUE NETWORK IS SUPPOSED TO
UNVEIL ITS GLAMOROUS NEW TELEVISION
STAR TONIGHT! THEY'VE KEPT HER
IDENTITY A SECRET - BUT I'LL BET
IT'S SOME FAMOUS HOLLYWOOD
STAR!



"Idly, I glanced at the television screen,
grateful for anything that would divert
me from my desolation! Then, as the
screen lit up..."

AND HERE SHE IS, FOLKS - THE BLUE
NETWORK'S GLAMOROUS, SENSATIONAL
NEW TELEVISION PERSONALITY -
MISS SUE MATTHEWS!

WHA--?
THAT -- THAT'S
SUZY!

"A joyous
elation gripped
me - and an
overwhelming
sense of
wonder!
How had little
Suzy, the
daughter of the
backwoods
SWAMPS, risen
to such a
height?
But it was
enough that
**I HAD
FOUND
HER!**"

I'VE FOUND HER
- AT LAST!
I'VE GOT TO
GO TO HER -
TELL HER -

YOU'LL DO
NOTHING OF
THE KIND!
I DON'T KNOW HOW
THAT - THAT
CREATURE MANAGED
IT - BUT YOU'LL NEVER
SEE HER AGAIN AS LONG
AS WE'RE ENGAGED!



"As I looked
down at the
smug, cold,
loveless face
of the girl
I had once
thought
I loved, a
feeling of
utter contempt
swept me!
SHE was for
a man like
Gordon!
If THAT was a
LADY, I'D TAKE
MY LITTLE
SWAMP
GIRL!"

WELL, IN THAT CASE,
SISTER -- WE'RE NOT
ENGAGED!



"My heart soared on wings of love as
I sped to the television studios! I
headed straight for her dressing-room -
and --"

**SUZY - AT LAST
I'VE FOUND YOU!**

OHHH -- YOU!
YOU MEAN - YOU'VE
BEEN LOOKING
FOR ME?

NOT JUST LOOKING, BUT
SEARCHING - YEARNING
FOR YOU - FOR THE GIRL
I LOVE! PLEASE FORGIVE
ME FOR WHATEVER PAIN
I'VE CAUSED YOU!
I WAS BLIND BEFORE,
BUT THESE MONTHS
OF AGONY HAVE
TAUGHT ME --



-- THAT YOU'RE THE GIRL
I LOVE - AND WANT TO
MARRY!



"I swept her headlong into my
arms - hungrily found her lips!
A soaring ecstasy flooded through
me - the ecstasy of romance
discovered - of longing fulfilled!"

"Then suddenly, in that moment of my greatest happiness, the girl I loved struggled from my embrace! And in her eyes, there was - HATRED!"

DARLING --
WHAT IS IT -- ?

YOU -- YOU CONTUMPTIBLE LIAR!
SURE -- YOU LOVE ME -- NOW --
NOW THAT I'M FAMOUS! BUT
YOU DIDN'T LOVE THE LITTLE
SWAMP-RAT YOU LAUGHED AT
-- YOU SCORNED HER!
I HATE YOU FOR THAT --
SO GET OUT --
AND STAY
OUT OF MY
LIFE!

"It was then
that the world
collapsed
dizzily about
my ears -- and
the light of
joy and hope
fled from
my life!
Agonized
days
followed --
days
of
loneliness,
grief!"

I... I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT
SEEING HER! AND YET I CAN'T
EVEN GET NEAR HER -- THE
STUDIO'S THREATENED TO HAVE
ME ARRESTED IF I BOthered
HER AGAIN! I'VE GOT TO
THINK OF SOMETHING ...
ANYTHING!

"And then, the heaven-sent answer came --
in the person of Suzy's new publicity agent!"

I'M GONNA SYNDICATE HER WHOLE LIFE STORY -- HOW
A TALENT SCOUT PICKED HER UP LOST ON THE STREET
-- HOW THE BLUE NETWORK TRAINED HER, KEPT HER
COVERED UP SO'S THEY COULD SPRING HER AS A
SURPRISE! AND I'M FLYIN' SUE AND A CORPS OF
NEWSMEN AND PHOTOGRAPHERS DOWN TO HER HOME
IN FLORIDA -- FOR AN ON-THE-SPOT STORY OF HOW
SHE CAME UP FROM RAGS TO RICHES AND ROMANCE!
AND SINCE YOU DISCOVERED HER, I WANT YOU IN
ON THIS STUNT! BUT SHED KILL ME IF SHE KNEW
ABOUT IT!

I--I'LL GO WITH YOU! AT
LEAST I'LL SEE HER
AGAIN!

"The press agent smuggled me on board the plane,
just before it took off, and Suzy didn't see me until
we were airborne! But when she DID see me ---"

SUZY, I... I...

YOU! DON'T EVEN
TALK TO ME -- JUST
GET OFF THIS
PLANE!

WE'RE IN THE AIR --
HE CAN'T GET OFF!
I'LL JUST KEEP YOU TWO
SEPARATED UNTIL WE LAND -- MAYBE
YOU'LL BE CALM BY THEN!

"But the stormy scene that Suzy gave
vent to was **NOTHING** compared to
the storm that seized and flung the
plane around hours later!"

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO LET
YOU TALK ME INTO FLYING YOU DOWN IN THIS
HURRICANE WEATHER -- BECAUSE WE'RE IN
ONE RIGHT NOW! AND WE'VE NO PLACE
TO LAND -- WE'RE RIGHT OVER
THE FLORIDA SWAMPS!

WELL, DO
SOMETHING --
WE'LL CRASH!

WE'RE BEING FORCED
DOWN! HOLD TIGHT,
EVERYBODY!



WE'RE SAFE -- THE DOOR'S
CAUGHT IN OPEN, SUZY.
THE TREE TOPS! GRAB HOLD
SUE, LOOK OF SOME-
OUT! THING! OHN-
IT'S TOO LATE!



"Heart thudding with fear, I made my way to the yawning door! Holding on tightly, I looked down -- and choked with a cold, desperate terror!"

SUE -- LOOK OUT! THERE'S AN ALLIGATOR BEHIND YOU!

"One moment of paralyzing shock--and then I knew what I would have to do!"

I DON'T HAVE ANY WEAPONS-- I DON'T HAVE A CHANCE! BUT I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT HER! SO AT LEAST I CAN DIE FOR HER!

I... I CAN'T HOLD ON -- I'M LOSING MY GRIP! I'M DOOMED... UNLESS - WAIT! -

THAT HEAVY BRANCH FLOATING THERE--



"Desperately, I clutched the branch, waited until I saw the glitter in the beast's ready eyes as it sensed its imminent triumph!

Then, when the foul, gaping mouth was but a few inches from my face..."

NOW! TRY THIS TOOTHPICK FOR SIZE-- AND I HOPE YOU CHOKE ON IT!



IT WORKED! BUT THAT THRASHING TAIL -- I'LL HAVE TO GET SUZY AWAY FROM IT!



"Then, moments later --"

I... I'M SORRY OH, WAYNE, WAYNE! I HAD TO HOLD YOU HOLD ME CLOSER! I DON'T IN MY ARMS! HATE YOU -- I'VE NEVER STOPPED LOVING YOU! HOW HARD IT WAS I--I JUST SAID THE THINGS FOR YOU -- KNOWING I DID BECAUSE I DOUBTED HOW YOU HATE ME!

YOUR LOVE! BUT WHEN I SAW YOU BATTLING FOR ME, ALMOST DYING FOR ME, I KNEW THEN HOW MUCH YOU REALLY CARED!



OH, SWEETHEART--
I LOVE
YOU!



"A strange story, reader, isn't it -- the tale of the true love we found in each other's arms! Yes, no one knows when love will strike -- or when someone will travel on that royal road FROM RAGS TO ROMANCE!"

The END

THE Wishing WELL

MARcia COURTNEY had paid a weekly visit to the local wishing well ever since she was seventeen. Of course, she *didn't* have to ask for beauty, since she was already the most beautiful girl the town of Hartville had ever known. Wherever she went people stopped to stare at her and nudge one another, commenting on her loveliness.

By this time she was used to their stares, but what she could *not* get used to was the fact that she was *too* pretty. It was the strangest thing in the world the way the boys in town all seemed to be afraid of her, as if each of them felt that she was *too* beautiful for him, as if he could never be worthy of the loveliness that was hers.

And so, Marcia, the loveliest girl in town, was also the *loneliest!* When she had first blossomed out at the age of seventeen, and none of the boys dared to ask her for a date, the rumor soon went around that she was a snob, that she refused to go out with any of the local boys. And within a year, no one ever thought of asking her for a date!

Of course, the fact that she was the daughter of the town's only banker, and therefore the richest girl in town, didn't help things any. None of the boys felt that they were good enough for her, and people soon began to blame her snobbery on her wealth. Within a very short time, she became the most heartily disliked girl in town.

And so, week after week, Marcia paid her lonely visit to the wishing well on the outskirts of town, to ask not for beauty or wealth, which she already had, but for *love*, which she didn't!

Up until recently, she had always wished for "someone" who would love her—she'd never mentioned any name, because she'd never known whom *she* loved. But all that had changed with the coming of the young, handsome engineer, Jack Morris, who'd been hired by the town to repair its water system. It had been love at first sight on her part, and from the way he'd looked at her when they passed on the street, she felt in her heart that he'd fallen for her too.

And so now she was at the wishing well to ask for a specific man for the first time in her life. Leaning over and closing her eyes, she whispered: "I wish, I wish with all my heart that Jack Morris loves me—and marries me!"

And then, as if the well itself were answering, a hollow voice spoke up from within its depths: "*Your wish will be granted!*"

Startled, Marcia opened her eyes and looked down to see Jack himself climbing up out of the well!

When he saw the look of utter embarrassment on her face, he went to her and took her in his arms. "Don't blush, darling. I wasn't spying on you—I was just down there to see if there was any water in that old well. But I'm glad I heard what you wished for—because I . . . I guess I fell in love with *you* at first sight!"

And after he kissed her, he said, "There is water down there, but I won't let the town take it away from us for its water supply. We'll build our house out here—and it'll always be our own wishing well—where *all* our dreams will come true!"

NO TIME for LOVE

PLEASE STAND STILL, MISS POWERS--WE'VE GOT TO MEASURE THIS!

I CAN'T STAND STILL---I'M TOO FULL OF HAPPINESS! JUST THINK---IN A WEEK, I'LL BE MRS. HENRY WILSON!

YES TRUDY POWERS IS THE Happiest GIRL IN THE WORLD--- AND WHY NOT? SHE HAS YOUTH AND BEAUTY--- AND A TENDER LOVE SOON TO BE CONSECRATED IN MARRIAGE! HOW COULD SHE KNOW THAT A CAPRICIOUS FATE WOULD CAST ITS SOMBER SHADOW ACROSS HER PATH AND TEACH HER THE TRAGIC LESSON THAT SOME-TIMES THERE IS...

NO TIME FOR LOVE!

"YES, MY HEART OVERFLOWED WITH JOY AS I LOOKED INTO THE EYES OF MY HUSBAND-TO-BE..."

HENRY, DARLING
...OH, I LOVE YOU
SO! HOW DO I
LOOK?

LIKE A DREAM!
YOU LOOK SO
LOVELY I CAN'T
RESIST...

...THIS!

OHHHH! I
...I FORGOT
WHERE WE
WERE!

WHY, YOU'RE
BLUSHING,
HONEY! FORGET
IT...AND GET INTO
YOUR STREET CLOTHES!
WE'VE GOT TO GET TO
THE JEWELER'S AND
PICK OUT THE
RING!



"**H**IS WORDS--THEY WERE A KNELL OF DOOM! WHERE WAS MY HAPPINESS--NOW? WHAT HAD HE LEFT ME?"



"**S**IT SEEMED LIKE SOB-WRACKED AGES LATER--BACK AT MY APARTMENT..."



"**T**





"THOSE NIGHTMARES--OF DEATH! I WALKED THE DECKS TO ESCAPE THEM ... AND ONE NIGHT..."



"AGAIN I HAD THAT STRANGE FEELING IN HIS PRESENCE---AS IF MY DISGUISE HAD SUDDENLY BEEN SNATCHED FROM ME, EXPOSING THE UGLY SECRET I HAD TRIED TO CONCEAL!"



IT WAS A
NIGHT OF
ENCHANTMENT
--FOR ERIC'S
WINNING
PRESENCE
HELPED ME
FORGET THE
AWFUL
SHADOW
WHICH
HUNG
OVER ME!
BUT
THEN..."

A TOAST TO YOU, TRUDY! MAY YOU HAVE
A LONG AND HAPPY LIFE AND---
WHAT'S WRONG, TRUDY? WHY DID
YOU TURN SO PALE?



I---I'M SUDDEDLY VERY TIRED! WILL YOU
---TAKE ME BACK TO MY STATE-ROOM?



"I CRIED MYSELF
TO SLEEP THAT
NIGHT--WEPT TEARS
FOR THE NIGHT
HAVE BEEN! BUT
THE NEXT MORNING
---THERE WAS ERIC
AGAIN, ACTING AS
IF NOTHING HAD
HAPPENED! WE
SAW MUCH OF
EACH OTHER FROM
THEN ON---UNTIL
THAT LAST FATEFUL
NIGHT BEFORE WE
REACHED
HAWAII!"

TRUDY---THERE'S
SOMETHING--- I
MEAN, I'VE WANTED
TO---WELL, TELL
YOU SOMETHING!

WHY---OF
COURSE,
ERIC! WHAT
IS IT?



B
BEFORE I REALIZED WHAT HAD HAPPENED, ERIC
HAD PULLED ME TO HIM! HIS LIPS CRUSHED MINE,
HIS ARMS HELD ME CLOSE TO HIS HEART! THIS EM-
BRACE SEEMED TO MELT THE COLD FINGERS
OF FEAR THAT HAD GRIPPED ME SO LONG ---BUT
I KNEW THAT I COULDNT AFFORD THE LUXURY
OF ROMANCE! AGAINST THE DICTATES OF MY
PULSING HEART, I KNEW THAT I MUST NOT
SEE ERIC AGAIN! I KNEW THAT I HAD
NO TIME FOR LOVE!"

OH, TRUDY DARLING, I'M SO GLAD I'VE
FOUND YOU---WE'LL HAVE A WONDER-
FUL TIME TOGETHER IN HAWAII! OH,
BY THE WAY, YOU DIDN'T SAY WHERE
YOU'D BE STOPPING
THERE---?

I'LL BE AT
THE --- SILVER
CRESCENT HOTEL!

I MUSTNT TELL HIM THAT
I'LL REALLY BE AT THE
ROYAL HAWAIIAN!
---THIS IS GOODBYE,
ERIC DEAR!

"IN HAWAII, I TRIED NOT TO ALLOW
MYSELF A MOMENT TO THINK! I
PLUNGED INTO A MAD WHIRL OF
ACTIVITY---DATED MANY MEN! BUT
IT WAS NO USE! THEY WEREN'T ERIC!"

GOSH, YOU'RE
THE PRETTIEST GIRL
I'VE EVER KNOWN!
HEY---YOU AREN'T
EVEN LISTENING!

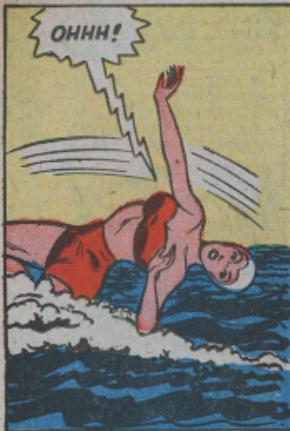
ER---I BEG
YOU
PARDON?



"ERIC---
ERIC---
HIS NAME
BEAT A
CONSTANT
REFRAIN IN
MY HEART!
WHERE WAS
HE---WHAT
WAS HE DOING
NOW? HAD
HE ALREADY
FORGOTTEN
ME? THE
ANSWER
CAME IN A
STRANGE
PLACE---
THE SURF
AT
WAIKIKI---

"OUCH! SOME-
THING'S GRABBED
MY FOOT!"





"MY HEART THROBBED WITH THE MAGIC AND ALLURE OF THIS ISLAND PARADISE! I SAW IT ALL---THRILLED TO IT..."



"OF ALL THE BEAUTIFUL SCENES IN HAWAII, THE MOST BREATH-TAKING WAS THE PALLI PASS, ARCHING HIGH OVER THE BLUE PACIFIC! SOMETHING ABOUT THE PLACE SUGGESTED LOVE, BUT THIS WASN'T FOR ME! WHY WAS MY BLOOD PULSING SO FIERCELY? I FELT ERIC'S ARM SLIP ABOUT ME --- WHY DIDN'T I STOP HIM?"



"OVER THE POUNDING OF MY HEART, I HEARD HIS WHISPERED WORDS--WORDS I CRAVED TO HEAR! BUT WORDS I KNEW I HAD NO RIGHT TO HEAR!"

OH, TRUDY DARLING
...I LOVE YOU!
I WANT TO...
MARRY YOU!

"NO! NO!
YOU MUSTN'T
SAY THAT!
PLEASE, ERIC,
TAKE ME HOME
...NOW!"

"THAT NIGHT I MADE MY FATEFUL,
SOUL-SEARING DECISION...AND
NEXT DAY..."

THIS IS GOODBYE--I
CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS! I
KNOW IT WILL HURT YOU, BUT
I MUST TELL YOU--I'M SUFFER-
ING FROM AN INCURABLE DISEASE
WHICH WILL KILL ME WITHIN A
YEAR! BUT I DON'T WANT YOU
TO SUFFER NEEDLESSLY--SO
PLEASE TRY TO FORGET ME!
AND THERE'S
NO USE TRYING
TO FIND ME!

"FRANTIC AND DISTRAUGHT, ERIC
BREWSTER SEARCHED FOR TRUDY
EVERWHERE--FRUITLESSLY!"

"I'VE GOT TO FIND HER! HEAVEN
KNOWS WHAT SHE COULD DO...
IN HER STATE OF MIND!--SAY
...ALL THAT COMMOTION! I
...I WONDER WHAT'S UP!"



"WHAT IS IT
---WHAT'S THE
TROUBLE?"

"IT'S THE MOANA LUA
---SHE MAKE BIG NOISE
---SOON EXPLODE! ---
WE RUN AWAY...
QUICK!"

"THE MOANA LUA...
OF COURSE! THAT'S
WHERE SHE IS! I'VE GOT
TO GET THERE--IN
TIME!"

IF EVER A CRISIS
COMES IN MY LIFE,
I'D LIKE TO BE...
HERE!"



AND SO,
WITH FRANTIC
HASTE,
ERIC
SPEEDS
TOWARDS
THE DREAD
CRATER!
HALFWAY
UP THE
PEAK, HE
SPIES...

"TRUDY! TRUDY!
COME BACK,
TRUDY!"

"IT'S NO USE--SHE CAN'T
REACH ME! AND I CAN'T
REACH HER--THAT WALL OF
MOLTEN LAVA HAS CUT HER
OFF! SHE'S STILL GOT A
LONG CLIMB TO THE TOP
---BUT HOW CAN I
SAVE HER?"

THERE'S ONLY ONE CHANCE--A LONG
SHOT--I'VE GOT TO GET TO A PHONE
QUICKLY! MAYBE ONE OF THOSE
EVACUATED HOMES NEAR THE
VOLCANO!"





"BUT--THE VERY NEXT MORNING..."



YOU DON'T HAVE TO...
LIE, DOCTOR! WE KNOW
THIS IS IT! WE WENT INTO
THIS MARRIAGE WITH OUR
EYES WIDE OPEN---AND
WE'VE HAD ALL THE
HAPPINESS WE COULD
EXPECT! SO DON'T BE
AFRAID TO TELL US THE
TRUTH! THIS IS THE
END, ISN'T IT?



WHY, WHAT'S
THE MATTER?
DON'T
THAT
MAKE YOU
HAPPY?

HAPPY? IF THINGS
WERE DIFFERENT, I'D BE
THE HAPPIEST WOMAN
ALIVE! BUT AS IT IS---
WHO KNOWS IF I'LL
LIVE LONG ENOUGH
TO HAVE MY BABY?
AND EVEN IF I DO,
THE CHILD IS DOOMED
TO GROW UP WITHOUT
A MOTHER! WHAT
HAVE I TO BE HAPPY
ABOUT?



PLENTY! I'VE ONLY TOLD YOU
PART OF THE GOOD NEWS!
YOU SEE, BIRTH IS A MYSTERIOUS
PROCESS---OFTEN IT CAUSES
STRANGE PHYSICAL CHANGES
IN THE MOTHER-TO-BE! CHANGES
IN HER BLOODSTREAM AND
GLANDS WHICH EVEN MODERN
MEDICINE CAN'T EXPLAIN!



AND IN YOUR CASE IT'S SUCCEEDED
WHERE SCIENCE FAILED---FOR THE
MALIGNANT CONDITION YOU'VE
BEEN SUFFERING FROM HAS
ALREADY BEGIN TO DISAPPEAR!
YOU'LL HAVE YOUR BABY AND
LIVE TO A RIPE OLD AGE, MY
DEAR---WITH HAPPINESS
AND HEALTH EVERY STEP
OF THE WAY!



MAGIC WORDS---STRIKING OFF THE SHACKLES OF DEATH AND FEAR THAT HAD HELD ME PRISONER---GRANTING INSTEAD THE PRECIOUS BOON OF LIFE ITSELF! I KNEW TEARS NOW---BUT THEY WERE TEARS OF JOY! TENDERLY, GRATEFULLY, ERIC'S LIPS CARESSED MINE---WITH THE GOLDEN PROMISE OF THE LONG YEARS AHEAD..."



OH, DARLING
...WE'LL BE SO
HAPPY---THE
THREE OF
US!

YES...OH, YOU WERE
SO RIGHT, MY DEAR!
I---I GUESS THERE'S
ALWAYS TIME FOR
LOVE!



Embraceable Enemy



"MOONLIGHT - and MURDER! A strange combination, you might think - but it wasn't so strange in the hills I come from, where love sometimes went hand in hand with the bitter blood feuds which were traditional! This was the grim setting in which I, Lucy Turner, was raised! Small wonder, then, that gun-shots frequently interrupted my dreams -- dreams of LOVE!"

"I'D NEVER THOUGHT MUCH OF ROMANCE! HOW COULD I, AMONG SCENES LIKE THIS?"

QUICK, DOUSE THE LIGHT! THEM HOUNDS ARE BAYIN' AT SOMEONE PROWLIN' AROUND!
THE KELLEYS MAY BE OUT THERE!

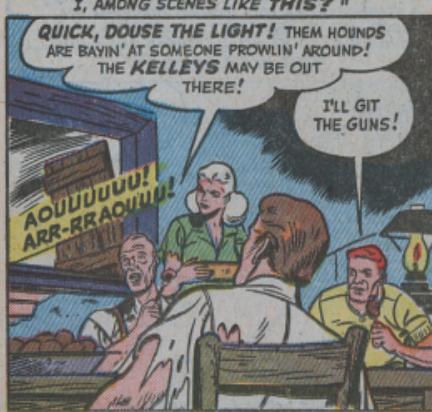
I'LL GIT THE GUNS!

AOUUUUUUU!
ARR-RRACUUU!

"THEY WERE AT IT AGAIN -- THE GENERATIONS-OLD FEUD BETWEEN THE TURNER AND THE KELLEY CLANS THAT HAD BEEN SPILLING BLOOD ON THE KENTUCKY HILLS AS FAR BACK AS I COULD REMEMBER!"

CALL OFF YORE DOGS ---
IT'S ME -- JIM HUNTER!

HOLD YORE FIRE! --
I RECKON JIM'S FINALLY
COME TO CLAIM LUCY FER
HIS WIFE! NOW THAT OLD
MAN HUNTER'S DEAD, JIM'S
GOT THE WHOLE FARM
FER HIMSELF -- HE KIN
SUPPORT A WIFE
NOW!



"JIM TURNER --- THE NAME HAD ALWAYS SENT A SHIVER OF ANTICIPATION THROUGH ME, EVER SINCE I WAS OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT JIM AND I HAD BEEN BETROTHED IN INFANCY BY OUR FAMILIES! I WAS SHY, FRIGHTENED, AS I LOOKED AT THE MAN WHO WAS TO BE MY ---HUSBAND!"

WELL, LUCY, YUH READY TO MAKE THE TRIP TO THE PARSON? I BEEN WAITIN' A LONG TIME TILL I COULD GET THE FARM, SO YUH WOULDN'T MARRY A NO-ACCOUNT!

I... I GUESS I'M READY... JIM!

WHY DON'T YUH ASK HER IF SHE **WANTS** TO MARRY YUH? I DON'T SET MUCH STORE ON **TELLIN'** A GAL WHO SHE **HAS TO MARRY!**

SHET UP, GEORGE! SURE LUCY WANTS TO MARRY HIM --- AINT HE THE SON O' THE BEST FRIEND I EVER HAD? --- BUT SAY, JIM, INSTEAD O' KUSHIN' TO THE PARSON, HOW ABOUT STAYIN' HERE A WEEK OR TWO? I HEAR TELL YUH'RE A MIGHTY FINE SHOT --- WE KIN **USE** YUH IN OUR

KELLEY DOGS!

I'D BE **GLAD** TO GET IN SOME SHOOTIN', SEEIN' AS THEY'LL BE **MY** ENEMIES TOO WHEN I MARRY INTO THE TURNERS!

"HIS WORDS FILLED ME WITH A COLD, FOREBODING FEAR! MY HEART POUNDING AT HIS CLOSENESS, I TRIED TO WORK UP ENOUGH COURAGE TO TELL HIM HOW I HATED THIS WARFARE --"

LUCY, YUH'RE THE PRETTIEST BRIDE. A MAN COULD EVER ASK FOR!

JIM, I... I NEVER DARED TALK THIS WAY TO MY FAMILY -- BUT MAYBE YOU CAN HELP STOP THIS SENSELESS FEUD! YOU... YOU MIGHT EVEN BE **KILLED** -- JUST LIKE MY TWO OLDER BROTHERS AND MY MOTHER! THERE'S **NO SENSE** TO ALL THIS KILLING ... THERE'S NO END TO IT!

BUT YUH'RE A KENTUCKY GAL, LUCY -- FEUDIN' IS IN OUR **BLOOD**! THE KELLEYS ARE YORE

ENEMIES... AN'. THEY'RE GONNA BE MINE NOW, TOO! HOW CAN YUH EVEN TALK THAT WAY?

BECAUSE I **AM** A KENTUCKY GIRL -- BECAUSE I **LOVE** THIS LAND, THESE HILLS! THAT'S WHY I WANT TO END THE FIGHTING -- SO THAT THERE'LL BE SOMEONE LEFT **ALIVE** ON THE LAND!

DON'T YOU SEE, JIM? I COULDN'T BEAR TO HAVE THE REST OF MY FAMILY... AND YOU... **SHOT DOWN**! IT'S GOT TO STOP-- IT'S GOT TO!

WE'RE NOT GONNA GET KILLED ... THE KELLEYS ARE! YUH'RE GETTIN' ALL EXCITED ABOUT NOTHIN' -- HERE, MEBBE THIS'LL SETTLE YUH DOWN !

"IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D EVER BEEN KISSED! A STRANGE, WARM FIRE SPREAD THROUGH MY BLOOD, SET MY HEART TO BEATING WILDLY -- LONGLINGLY! IT COULD ONLY MEAN ONE THING--- THIS WAS LOVE!"

OH, JIM... DARLING!



"I FORGOT MY FEARS -- FORGOT EVERYTHING BUT HIS STRONG, CHERISHED NEARNESS! HE WAS MY MAN, MY KIND -- AND WHETHER HE BELIEVED, I BELIEVED!"

SWEETHEART, LET'S FORGET ABOUT THE FEUD! THE ONLY THING THAT'S IMPORTANT NOW IS THAT -- WE'RE TOGETHER!



"DAYS OF ENCHANTMENT FOLLOWED -- DAYS FILLED WITH HAPPY PRERATIONS FOR MY WEDDING; AND THEN, WHILE I WAS PICKING BERRIES -- IT HAPPENED!"

THAT -- THAT MUST BE A KELLEY! I... I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY BEFORE HE SEES ME!



"IT WAS A KELLEY -- BUT IT WAS ADAM KELLEY, THE CHILDHOOD FRIEND WHOM I USED TO MEET IN SECRET --- BEFORE EITHER OF US EVER UNDERSTOOD THE MEANING OF 'FEUD'! FOND MEMORIES OF THE JOYFUL HOURS WE'D SPENT PLAYING TOGETHER SWEEP OVER ME -- UNTIL I FORCIBLY REMINDED MYSELF THAT HE WAS STILL A KELLEY!"

IT... IT'S REALLY YOU, ADAM! I... I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN YEARS! ARE YOU OUT HERE HUNTING -- TURNERS?

HARDLY, LUCY --- HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN SO SOON HOW WE BOTH USED TO LAUGH AT OUR FAMILIES -- HOW WE USED TO FOOL THEM WITH ALL OUR SECRET MEETINGS? WELL, NOW THAT I'M BACK FROM AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, I'VE STOPPED LAUGHING AT THE FEUD -- AND STARTED HATING IT!

"I PROMISED TO ANOTHER, I WANTED TO REFUSE -- BUT I COULDN'T FORGET THAT OLD CHILDHOOD BOND BETWEEN US! AND NOW THERE WAS SOMETHING NEW -- AN ALLURE, A FASCINATION WHICH DREW ME IRRESISTIBLY TOWARD MEETING HIM, EVERY HOUR I COULD POSSIBLY STEAL AWAY!"



I... I GUESS WE HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON THEN -- BECAUSE I HATE THIS STUPID KILLING, TOO!

I KNEW YOU WOULD! HOW ABOUT SEEING WHAT ELSE WE HAVE IN COMMON -- BY MEETING ME IN THE OLD HOLLOW THIS AFTERNOON, THE WAY WE USED TO?



"BUT MY FREQUENT ABSENCES SOON BEGAN TO AROUSE SUSPICIONS ---"

WHERE YUH OFF TO THIS TIME, LUCY? SEEMS TO ME YUH'RE ALWAYS OFF PICKIN' STRAWBERRIES SOMEWHERE, AN' YET YUH NEVER COME BACK WITH ANY!

OH, THE... THE BUSHES HAVE ALMOST BEEN PICKED CLEAN BY NOW! I HAVE TO KEEP GOING DEEPER INTO THE WOODS EACH TIME!



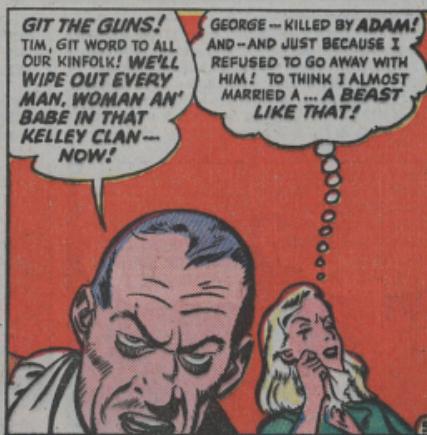
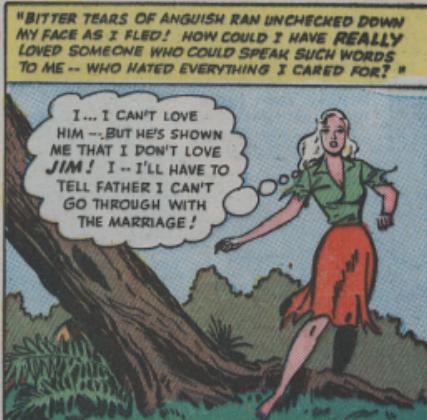


"A STRANGE DESOLATION FILLED MY HEART AT THE PROSPECT OF NEVER SEEING ADAM AGAIN! BUT I KNEW I'D **HAVE** TO MAKE THE BREAK—BECAUSE IF THEY EVER FOUND OUT, THEY'D KILL HIM, TEAR HIM TO PIECES!"



"I COULDN'T STOP HIM — I DIDN'T WANT TO! IT WAS A MAGIC ALLURE WHICH MADE MY SENSES REEL! I FELT HIS BURNING KISSES — AND KNEW THAT JIM HAD VANISHED FROM MY HEART FOREVER! THIS WAS ADAM, ADAM-- THIS WAS TRUE LOVE!"





"A FEELING OF UTTER HORROR SWEPT OVER ME AT THE THOUGHT OF A MAN WHO COULD SO COLD-BLOODEDLY MURDER SOMEONE SO DEAR TO ME AS MY OWN BROTHER! AND THEN THE HORROR CHANGED TO ANGER, TO A BURNING RAGE!"

NOT ONLY DON'T I LOVE HIM, I HATE HIM! I HATE HIM -- I'LL SHOOT HIM IF I CAN!

"AN HOUR LATER..."

IT'S THE TURNERS! JEWEL --- GET BACK HERE --- QUICK!

BANG! BANG!

HERE'S WHERE WE GIT OUR FIRST TASTE O' REVENGE! SHE'S A PERFECT TARGET!

BANG!

THEY... THEY SHOT HER DOWN! I'LL GET THEM FOR THAT -- EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM! THIS IS MY FEUD NOW -- THEY'RE MY ENEMIES NOW, TOO!

"BY THE TIME I MADE MY WAY TO THE KELLEY FARM, HEART STILL HOT WITH RAGE, I FOUND THAT BOTH SIDES HAD ENTRENCHED THEMSELVES! THIS WAS MY PLACE -- AT THE SIDE OF MY KINFOLK, BATTLING AGAINST HATED ENEMIES -- INCLUDING THE MOST DESPISED OF THEM ALL, HE WHO HAD SO FALSELY LAID SIEGE TO MY HEART!"

SO, YUH DECIDED TO JOIN IN, EH? I KINDA FIGGERED YUH'D CHANGE YORE MIND ABOUT THE FEUD -- AN' ABOUT THE KELLEYS!

RANG!

YOU - YOU WERE RIGHT, JIM! BUT THIS ISN'T ANY TIME FOR TALK! I'M GOING TO LET MY GUN SPEAK FOR ME!

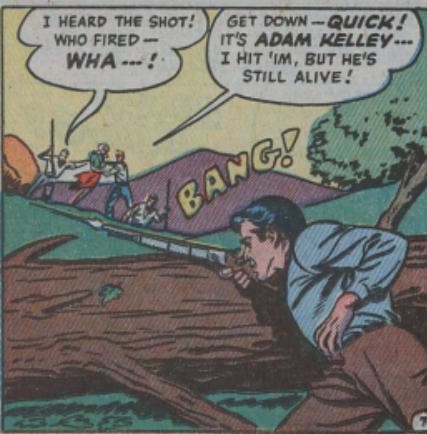
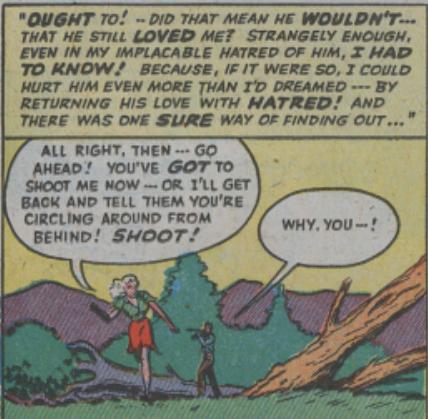
WE'RE OUTNUMBERED! WE'LL HAVE TO TRY NABBING THEM FROM THE REAR! I'LL GO OUT AHEAD AND SCOUT! THE REST OF YOU CIRCLE AROUND THEIR LINES IN ABOUT TEN MINUTES --

EXCEPT FOR TWO OF YOU WHO'LL STAY HERE AND KEEP FIRING SO THEY DON'T GET SUSPICIOUS!

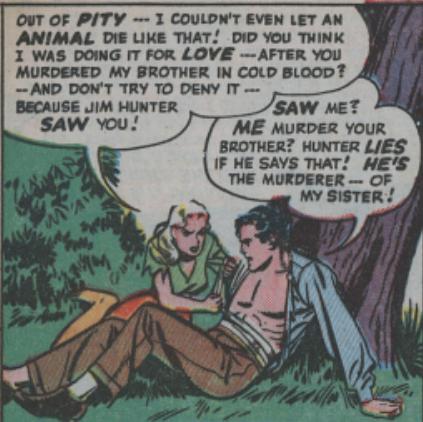
BANG! BANG!

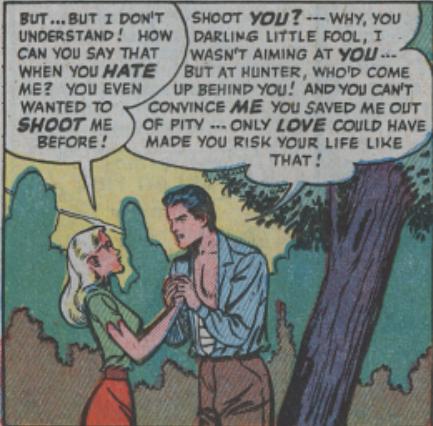
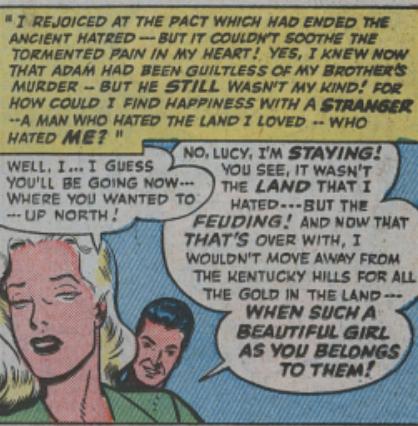
WE NEED MORE BULLETS! LUCY, GO BACK TO THE HOUSE AN' GET SOME --- I CAN'T SPARE A MAN! BUT BE CAREFUL -- SOME OF THE KELLEYS MAY BE OUT IN THE WOODS!

THAT'S THEIR WORRY -- BECAUSE I'LL DOWN ANY OF 'EM I MEET!









HOW HE PROPOSED

THE GREATEST THRILL IN A GIRL'S LIFE IS THE MOMENT WHEN THE MAN SHE'S IN LOVE WITH ASKS HER TO MARRY HIM! YET A GREAT DEAL DEPENDS ON JUST HOW THE QUESTION IS POPPED, FOR A MAN IS JUDGED BY THE CRUDITY OR ENCHANTMENT OF HIS PROPOSAL. AND HERE, IN HER OWN WORDS, IS HOW HE PROPOSED--TO AGNES WALKER, OF SAN DIEGO!

JERRY WAS THE BOY NEXT DOOR... AND IT SEEMED AS IF I'D ALWAYS BEEN IN LOVE WITH HIM! BUT HE WAS THE SHY TYPE--AND I BEGAN TO DESPAIR OF EVER HAVING HIM PROPOSE TO ME!



WHEN HIS SISTER AND MY BROTHER BECAME ENGAGED, I THOUGHT AT LAST I'D HAVE A CHANCE TO SET HIM TO TALKING ABOUT WEDDINGS AND MARRIAGES. ABOUT HOW HAPPY TWO PEOPLE COULD BE TOGETHER! BUT WHENEVER I BROUGHT THE SUBJECT UP--"

DIDN'T YOU JUST THRILLED ABOUT THE WEDDING, JERRY?

WHY, IT'S ONLY A FEW DAYS OFF!

YEAH, SURE, SURE!... COME ON, LET'S GO SEE WHAT THE REST OF THE CROWD IS DOING TODAY!



THEN, AT THE WEDDING CEREMONY, IN WHICH JERRY WAS BEST MAN AND I WAS MAID OF HONOR..."

SHE--SHE'S LOVELY!... I WONDER IF I'LL HAVE ENOUGH NERVE TO PULL THIS STUNT OFF--BUT AT LEAST I'VE GOT EVERYTHING I NEED--A MARRIAGE LICENSE ALREADY FILLED OUT, TWO RINGS--

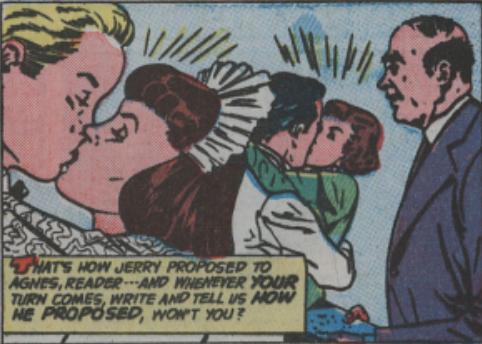
THE RING, YOU BABOON--THE RING! DON'T YOU HAVE IT?

TAKE IT BABY, OLD MAN--NOT ONLY DO I HAVE YOUR RING, BUT I'VE ALSO GOT--



ONE FOR YOU, DARLING! THEY DON'T HAVE A MONOPOLY ON MARRIAGE, DO THEY, SWEETS? HOW ABOUT MAKING IT A DOUBLE WEDDING?

OH, YES, DEAREST--YES!



THAT'S HOW JERRY PROPOSED TO AGNES, READER--AND WHENEVER YOUR TURN COMES, WRITE AND TELL US HOW HE PROPOSED, WON'T YOU?

Romance WRITER

THIS was the first love story Edith Thompson had ever written. Up till now, she had been a specialist in the tough, hard-boiled type of detective yarn, where every character was grim, heartless, unyielding. And Philip Saunders, editor of the string of magazines for which she wrote, had bought every one of them—and asked for more of the same.

But this one she'd just finished could hardly be said to be like the others. As a matter of fact, it was at the entirely opposite pole, full of the warmth and tenderness of first love, a story into which she'd put all her own yearnings—for the editor who would read it. Yes, there was no doubt about it—she was deeply, hopelessly in love with Philio Saunders!

But he thought of her only as his top crime-story writer, with a heart as hard and callous as those of the private dicks and gun molls who slouched across the pages of her stories. Whenever he'd finish reading a story she'd just brought in, he'd look up and say, "Sister, you write as if you know these yeggs inside out—as if you're one of them yourself!"

And somehow, Edith felt that if he could only see the other side of her, the real Edith, he'd know that she was simply a lovesick girl, with a heart full of tenderness, longing for romance. But there was

no way of letting him know that. All she could do was satisfy herself in this story—prove to herself the emotions that lay buried deep within her throbbing heart by transmitting them to paper. Philip would never know that it was her love laid stark before him. He'd laugh, tell her to go back to what she knew, crime-writing. That was what she feared when she placed her story in his hands.

There was silence as Philip Saunders took the story, read. And when he finally looked up from it, there was an expression of bewitched amazement in his eyes.

"Edith," he said—and the name fell lovingly from his lips. "The heroine in this story—the girl who's in love—it's you, isn't it?"

"Y... yes, I guess it is," Edith stammered out.

"And the hero—the man you're in love with—his description fits me to a T!" Philip continued. "Is . . . is this only a story, or did you mean it?"

The starkly yearning love shining out of Edith's eyes was all the answer he needed. A moment later he was holding her in his arms, his lips against hers, murmuring, "Oh, darling . . . I'd given up hope of ever finding out you were capable of love and tenderness—but now I know. Your love story had a happy ending—and so will ours!"

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION,
ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST
21, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933 AND
JULY 2, 1948.

OF ROMANTIC ADVENTURES, published bi-monthly at New York, N. Y., for October 1, 1948. State of New York, County of New York: ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Richard E. Hughes, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor of ROMANTIC ADVENTURES, and that the following is true concerning the history of his knowledge and belief of a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily, weekly, semiweekly or triweekly newspaper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date named below, as required by the act of August 21, 1912, as amended by the acts of March 3, 1933, and July 2, 1948 (section 237, Postal Laws and Regulations), printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the Publisher, Editor, Manager, and Business Manager, Publishing Company, are: B. & L. Publishing Co., Inc., 45 West 45th Street, New York, N. Y.; Editor: Richard E. Hughes, 120 W. 183rd St., New York, N. Y.; Managing Editor, none; Business Manager, Frederick H. Iger, 50 Beverly Road, Great Neck, L. I.

2. That the owner is: B. & L. Publishing Co., Inc., 45 West 45th St., New York, N. Y.; B. W. Sanger, 7 West 51st Street, New York, N. Y.; Frederick H. Iger, 50 Beverly Road, Great Neck, L. I.

3. That the known stockholders, mortgagees and other security holders owning or holding one percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities are: None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owner, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company, but also in case where the stockholders, security holders, or the company, may be in equity with the stockholders or security holders, or the company, or the trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the two paragraphs contain statements embracing all facts material to be known concerning the stockholders and security holders, so far as they appear upon the books of the company, except that the names and addresses of stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, "hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner, and whose interest in the publication is so indirect, in the said stock, bonds or other securities that as so stated by him." (Signed) Richard E. Hughes, Editor.

Swear to and subscribed before me this 28th day of September, 1948.
Nat C. Sherman, Notary Public. (Commission expires Mar. 30, 1951.)

ROMANCE in a TRANCE



"EVER BEEN HYPNOTIZED, READER... INTO FALLING IN LOVE? NO? WELL, IF YOU THINK YOU'VE MISSED SOMETHING, READ THE STORY OF WEALTHY FRANCINE VAN RHYS---AND THE HYPNOTIC SPELL WOVEN AROUND HER BY THE MAGNETIC, MASTERFUL MANFRED! READ OF A NEW KIND OF ROMANCE---DEADLY, DANGEROUS---AND OF ITS AMAZING AFTERMATH!"



"DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SITTING ON TOP-OF-THE-WORLD, READER---TO BE THE MOST POPULAR, SOUGHT-AFTER DEBUTANTE OF THE NEW YORK SOCIAL SEASON? WELL, I KNEW!"

ALL RIGHT,
JACK ---
I'M
CUTTING
IN!

WHAT DO YOU
MEAN, YOU'RE
CUTTING IN?
---I'VE BEEN
TRYING TO GET
A DANCE WITH
FRANCINE ALL
EVENING!

FORGET IT,
SQUARES!
FRANCINE
STAYS
WITH
ME!

"YES, I EXULTED IN MY POPULARITY---UNTIL I OVERHEARD THE FATEFUL WORDS THAT RIPPED MY EXULTANT HEART TO SHREDS!"

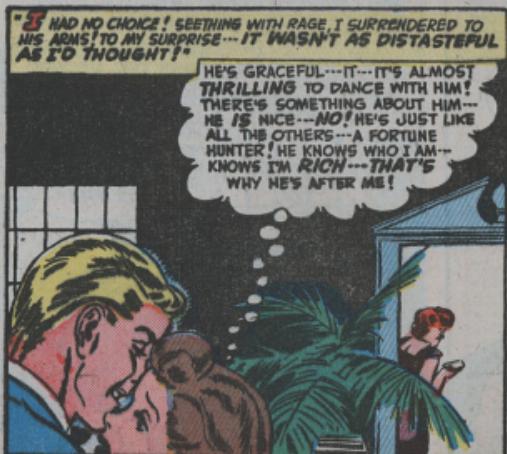
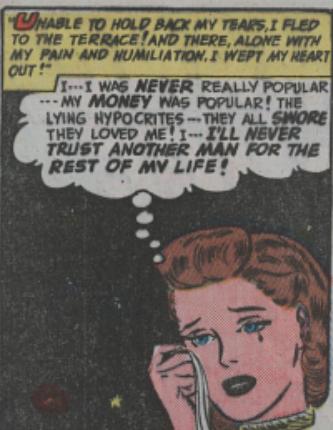
STAY AWAY FROM
FRANCINE! ALL
YOU'RE INTERESTED
IN IS HER MONEY!

WHAT ABOUT YOU?
DON'T TELL ME YOU
AREN'T ITCHING FOR
THOSE MILLIONS!

LOOK, WHY DON'T WE ALL
ADMIT WE WANT TO MARRY
HER FOR HER MONEY?
MAY THE SMOOTHEST
TALKER WIN!

OHHH!





"BUT IT WASN'T AS EASY TO BRUSH HIM OFF AS I'D THOUGHT! PERHAPS MONEY MEANT MORE TO HIM THAN TO THE OTHERS...BECAUSE NOTHING HALTED HIS PERSISTENT PHONE CALLS AND APPEARANCES FINALLY..."

THAT YOUNG MAN WAS JUST HERE AGAIN, MISS FRANCINE! I TOLD HIM WHAT YOU'D SAID...THAT YOU'D NOTIFY THE POLICE IF HE ANNOYED YOU AGAIN!

THANK YOU, PARKER! I'M SURE THAT'S THE LAST OF HIM!

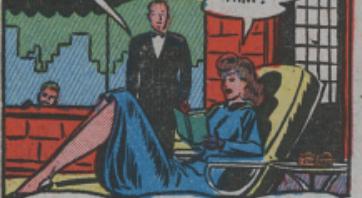
YOU WOULDN'T BE SO SURE...IF YOU KNEW HOW MUCH I HAD TO SEE YOU...HEAR YOUR VOICE AGAIN!

YOU!

"THIS WAS TOO MUCH! FURIOUS, I DETERMINED TO PUT A STOP TO THIS INSOLENCE ONCE AND FOR ALL!"

PLEASE LISTEN TO ME, FRANCINE! IT'S BEEN TORTURE NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE YOU! YOU MIGHT AS WELL KNOW...I FELL MADLY IN LOVE WITH YOU THE MOMENT I SAW YOU!

YOU MEAN YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH MY MONEY! THIS TIME, YOU'RE GOING TO LEARN TO DO WITHOUT IT...IN JAIL! ...PARKER! RODGERS!



GOT HIM, MISS FRANCINE!

FRANCINE, LISTEN TO ME...!

CALL THE POLICE, PARKER...TELL THEM WE'VE CAUGHT A BURGLAR!

LATER...

MISS VAN RHYNS, I'M SURE THERE'S BEEN SOME MISTAKE! I CAN'T BOOK THAT KEENAN BOY ON A CHARGE OF BURGLARY...BECAUSE THE SON OF J.F. KEENAN, THE GREAT TEXAS OIL MILLIONAIRE, COULDN'T BE A BURGLAR!

OH! I...I NEVER DREAMED HE... PLEASE DROP ALL CHARGES SERGEANT!



"THE REVELATION CAME AS A STAGGERING SHOCK TO ME...BUT HARDLY AS STAGGERING AS THE NEXT THOUGHT THAT HIT ME LIKE A PILE-DRIVER, SENT MY HEART SOARING TO THE SKIES!"

IF...IF HE'S THAT RICH, HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN AFTER MY MONEY! IT'S ME HE CARES FOR...HE REALLY LOVES ME! AND I...I MIGHT AS WELL ADMIT IT TO MYSELF...I THINK I'VE FALLEN FOR HIM! THAT'S WHY I WAS SO HARSH WITH HIM...BECAUSE I DIDN'T TRUST MY HEART EVEN WHEN I THOUGHT HE WAS A FORTUNE HUNTER! BUT NOW THAT I KNOW HE ISN'T...



"I KNEW HE'D BE BACK...BUT MY HUNGRY HEART LEAPED AT THE SIGHT OF HIM!"

I...I BROUGHT YOU A PEACE OFFERING, FRAN...IF YOU'LL TAKE IT FROM A JAILBIRD! I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU HAD ME RELEASED...BUT IT STOPPED ME FROM BREAKING OUT TO SEE YOU!

I...I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU, RAY...BLIND TO MY OWN FEELINGS!



"HE SENSED THE SOFT SURRENDER IN MY EYES, SWAYED TOWARD ME---AND I WAS IN HIS ARMS! HIS LIPS WERE ON MINE, SENDING A BLAZING ECSTASY COURSING TO THE CORE OF MY BEING! AT LAST IT WAS TRUE... I WAS IN LOVE!"

FRANCINE...
SWEETHEART...

OH...
RAY...



"THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED WERE ENCHANTED ONES! I WENT EVERYWHERE WITH RAY---EVEN TO STRANGE PLACES LIKE DANNY'S BOWERY FOLLIES, IN THE HEART OF NEW YORK'S SLUMS!"

DON'T KNOW WHY-EE...
THERE'S NO CLOUDS
UP IN THE SKY-EE...

THAT'S THE MOST AWFUL
SINGING I'VE EVER HEARD.
RAY! IS THIS WHAT YOU
WANTED ME TO SEE?

NO, SHE'S JUST PART OF
THE ATMOSPHERE! BUT
WAIT'LL YOU SEE THIS
HYPNOTIST WHO'S ON
THE PROGRAM! HIS NAME'S
MANFRED---AND I HEAR
HE'S OUT OF THIS
WORLD!



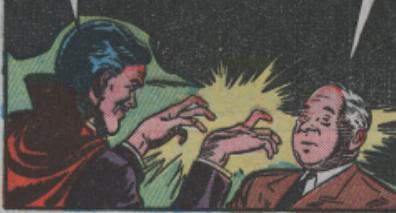
"MANFRED---THE NAME EVOKED A STRANGE, EXCITING PREMONITION! AND THEN THERE HE WAS---AND IT WAS AS IF AN ELECTRIC CURRENT HAD PULSED THROUGH ME! I WATCHED, FASCINATED---GRIPPED BY AN ODD MAGNETISM..."

LOOK DEEPLY INTO MY EYES... DEEPLY!
YOUR WILL POWER IS DRAINING AWAY
---I HAVE BECOME YOUR MASTER...
OBEY ME! NOW YOU ARE NO
LONGER A MAN---BUT A BIRD!

YES...YES
...A BIRD...

YES...YOU ARE A BIRD!
YOU WANT TO FLAP YOUR
WINGS, FLY AWAY!

HAW! HAW!
WOW...WHAT
A HYPNOTIST!



"I DIDN'T WANT TO GO UP, BUT SOME STRANGE, COMPELLING FORCE STRONGER THAN MYSELF MADE ME BRUSH RAY'S HAND ASIDE! AND A MOMENT LATER, I FOUND MYSELF ON THE STAGE, GAZING INTO THOSE BLACK POOLS OF STRANGE FIRE THAT WERE HIS EYES, BEING DRAWN DEEPER INTO THOSE DEPTHS---DEEPER---BECOMING LOST IN THEM---LOST---

...LOST..."

GAZE DEEPLY... DEEPLY! YOU NO LONGER
HAVE ANY WILL OF YOUR OWN---YOU ARE
BECOMING SUBJECT TO MY WILL---TO MY
MASTERY OVER YOU! SAY IT---I AM
YOUR MASTER!

YOU...YOU
ARE MY...
MASTER...!

"HIS ARTISTRY, HIS MASTERY OVER THE HUMAN WILL, ENTRANCED ME---FILLED ME WITH STRANGE, NAMELESS EMOTIONS! AND THEN, HIS EYES ROAMED OVER THE AUDIENCE, FIXED BURNINGLY ON ME!"

AN, HERE'S SOMEONE
WHO MIGHT BE A GOOD
SUBJECT---THIS LOVELY
YOUNG LADY! WON'T
YOU COME UP,
PLEASE?

ME? I... I DON'T
KNOW---YES! I...
I'LL COME UP!

FRAN!

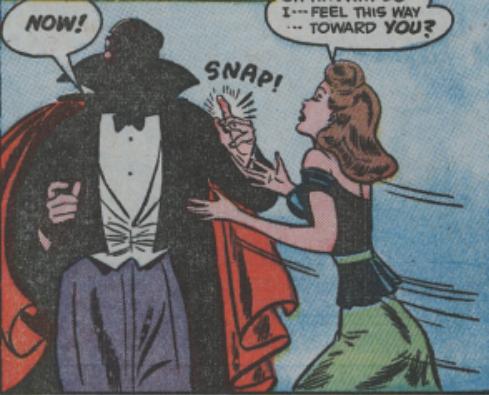


"**E**T TRIED FIGHTING AGAINST THE OVERRIDING FORCE THAT SEEMED TO EMANATE FROM HIS BLAZING EYES, LEAVING ME DRAINED OF ALL WILL POWER---WEAK---HELPLESS! BUT SURELY, I DIDN'T WANT TO FIGHT ANY LONGER! I FELT CONSCIOUSNESS DRIPPING AWAY---WITH ONLY A VOICE HAMMERING AWAY AT ME FROM A GREAT DISTANCE!"

"YOU ARE AWARE ONLY OF MY VOICE---THE VOICE THAT YOU MUST OBEY! WHEN I SNAP MY FINGERS, YOU WILL AWAKE TO FIND YOURSELF IN LOVE WITH ME---DESPERATELY IN LOVE! YOU WILL THROW YOUR ARMS AROUND ME---KISS ME!"



"**A** SHARP SNAP PENETRATED THROUGH THE HAZE SURROUNDING ME---AND I SUDDENLY FOUND MYSELF AWAKE AGAIN, BACK TO REALITY---AND FILLED WITH AN OVERWHELMING LOVE FOR THIS STRANGER WHO STOOD BEFORE ME!"



"**E**T COULDN'T UNDERSTAND THE ALL-COMPELLING FORCE WHICH DREW ME MAGNETICALLY TOWARD HIM! ALL I KNEW WAS THAT SURELY, MY ARMS WERE ABOUT HIM! MY LIPS TOUCHED HIS---AND AN UNCONTROLLABLE FIRE SWEEP ME FROM HEAD TO TOE!"



"**A** BURST OF RAUCOUS LAUGHTER FROM THE AUDIENCE BROUGHT ME TO MYSELF---TO BURNING SHAME AS I REALIZED THIS HAD BEEN HYPNOSIS!"



"**B**UT MINUTES LATER, THE SHAME HAD FADED AWAY TO NOTHINGNESS BEFORE THE BURNING MEMORY OF THAT KISS! I FOUGHT AGAINST IT---BUT I COULDN'T HELP RELIVING THAT ECSTATIC MOMENT IN MANFRED'S ARMS!"

WHY, RAY, I BELIEVE THAT CHEAP VAUDEVILLE TRICKSTER! I NEVER SHOULD HAVE TAKEN YOU THERE!

YOU'RE JEALOUS OF HIM! BUT YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO TALK ABOUT HIM LIKE THAT JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A MILLIONAIRE AND FEEL SUPERIOR TO HIM! HE'S JUST TRYING TO EARN A LIVING---AND AT LEAST IT'S AN HONEST WAY!



"**M**E---A MILLIONAIRE? FRANCIE, KID, ARE YOU OFF THE BEAM! SURE, MY DAD'S GOT DOUGH APLENTY---BUT ONE'S NOT FOR ME! THAT'S WHAT WE FOUGHT ABOUT---I WANT TO MAKE MY CAREER IN MUSIC---AND THAT'S WHY HE'S CUT ME OFF WITHOUT A CENT!"

WHAT?
YOU MEAN---
YOU HAVE NO MONEY?



"**M**Y HEART THUDDED FIERCELY, BURNINGLY WITHIN ME --- FOR I FEARED THE WORDS I KNEW I WAS GOING TO HEAR!"

"I'M DEAD BROKE, HONEY! MAYBE I WILL HAVE TO LIVE OFF YOUR MONEY FOR A WHILE --- BUT ONLY UNTIL MY SYMPHONY BECOMES A SUCCESS!"

"YOU... YOU LYING CHEAT! YOU FORTUNE HUNTER! I WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE --- YOU TRIED TO WORM YOUR WAY INTO MY AFFECTIONS SO YOU COULD MARRY MY MILLIONS! I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!"

"**I**'D LEARNED MY LESSON --- NEVER AGAIN WOULD I TRUST A MAN'S LOVE UNLESS HE WERE IGNORANT OF MY WEALTH! ONLY IF HE THOUGHT ME POOR COULD I BE SURE OF HIM! BUT WAS THERE ANY OTHER MAN I COULD POSSIBLY LOVE? THAT NIGHT, MY DREAMS GAVE ME THE ANSWER..."

"I AM YOUR MASTER --- YOU ARE MINE!"

"I... LOVE... YOU!"



"**T**HAT SAME THRILLING MAGIC FILLED ME --- AND NEXT EVENING, DRAWN BY A STRANGE MAGNETISM, I FOUND MYSELF WALKING ON THE BOWERY! I HAD TO SEE HIM AGAIN --- TO SEE IF THAT POWERFUL FASCINATION WAS MORE THAN A DREAM!"

"I---I STILL FEEL THE SAME WAY --- AS IF SOMETHING DRAWS ME IRRESISTIBLY TO HIM! BUT HE--- HE DIDN'T EVEN NOD OR SMILE AT ME! I--- I GUESS I'M JUST YESTERDAY'S GUINEA PIG TO HIM... I'D BETTER LEAVE!"

"THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND APPRECIATION OF MY LAST PERFORMANCE HERE! GOOD NIGHT--- AND GOODBYE!"

"**H**IS LAST PERFORMANCE --- IT WAS GOOD-BYE! MY HEART WAS HEAVY WITH DESOLATION AS I SLOWLY MADE MY WAY OUTSIDE --- BUT THERE..."

"I EXPECTED YOU TONIGHT! I KNEW OHH, YOU COULDN'T KEEP AWAY---I KNOW Y---YES, OF YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY I DO! MAY I---WALK COURSE! WITH YOU?"



"**T**HAT WAS THE STRANGEST WALK OF MY LIFE, READER! AS IF BE-WITCHED CAUGHT IN SOME STRANGE WEB OF FATE, WE WALKED ON IN ENCHANTED SILENCE! NEVER HAD I FELT SO CLOSE TO ANY MAN! AND THEN, ON THE MANHATTAN BRIDGE---"

"WHO ARE YOU, THAT YOU SHOULD WALK OUT OF NOWHERE --- AND CREEP DEEP INTO MY HEART? I THOUGHT I HAD POWER OVER PEOPLE, BUT YOU---YOU HAVE ME HELPLESS, BOUND TO YOU!"

"I---I'M AFRAID I'M NOT ANYBODY, REALLY---JUST--- A GIRL..."

"JUST A GIRL? --- NO --- THE GIRL I LOVE!"

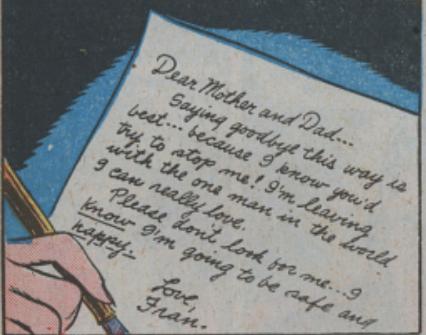
"OH... MANFRED..."



"**H**E WAS A STRANGER --- BUT A BLAZING METEOR WHO HAD LIT MY LIFE WITH THE LIGHT OF LASTING LOVE! AND WITHIN HIS STRONG ARMS, HIS LIPS ON MINE, I KNEW I HAD FINALLY FOUND TRUE ROMANCE!"



"HE LOVED ME---WANTED TO MARRY ME---AND HE DIDN'T KNOW WHO I WAS, HOW WEALTHY I WAS! THIS WAS THE MAN I WAS LOOKING FOR---HIS WAS A LOVE I COULD BE SURE OF, BECAUSE IT WAS FOR MYSELF ALONE! HEART BEATING HIGH WITH THE PROMISE OF GLOWING HAPPINESS AHEAD, I MADE MY PREPARATIONS..."



"YES, I WAS HAPPY---JUST BEING CLOSE TO MANFRED ON THE VOYAGE TO THE WEST INDIES WAS ENOUGH FOR ME! GLADLY I SERVED AS HIS CONSTANT HYPNOTIC SUBJECT..."

THIS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IS PROOF OF THE POWER OF HYPNOSIS! THE SUBJECT IS IN A DEEP TRANCE---AND THEREFORE DOESN'T EVEN FEEL THIS JAB OF THE NEEDLE!"



"NO, I FELT NOTHING WHILE UNDER HYPNOSIS---THOUGH MY ARM DID ache for days afterward! But I was glad to do it---enduring willingly the even greater pain of the hotel performances later!"

YES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THIS IS THE SECRET OF THE HINDU YOGIS! THEY USE SELF-HYPNOSIS---AND MY LOVELY SUBJECT FEELS ABSOLUTELY NO DISCOMFORT OR PAIN WHILE LYING ON HER BED OF NAILS... AS LONG AS SHE REMAINS IN THE TRANCE WHICH I---THE GREAT MANFRED ---IMPOSED ON HER!"



"THE PRICE I HAD TO PAY FOR LOVE WAS A PAINFUL ONE---BUT IT WAS WORTH IT! FOR DAY BY DAY, AS MANFRED'S FEES MOUNTED, WE WERE BROUGHT THAT MUCH CLOSER TO OUR WEDDING DAY!"

IT---IT FEELS AS IF I'VE SLEPT ON THAT BED OF NAILS FOR CENTURIES! BUT POOR MANFRED---HE'S SO BROKEN UP OVER THE SUFFERING HE THINKS HE'S FORCING ON ME! HE DOESN'T KNOW I'D EVEN DIE FOR HIM!"





"**E**NTHEN CAME MANFRED---AND TEMPESTUOUS RAGE VANISHED BEFORE HIS TENDERNESS! RAY'S BLUNDERING ATTEMPTS SEEMED FUNNY NOW---I COULD EVEN LAUGH AS I TOLD WHAT HAD TRANSPRIED!"

...IMAGINE THAT, DARLING---HE THOUGHT HE COULD DESTROY MY LOVE FOR YOU BY TELLING ME FANTASTIC LIES ABOUT YOUR PAST! HA, HA---I ORDERED HIM OUT BEFORE HE COULD SAY A WORD!

HMM! ---LISTEN, DEAREST ---FORGET ABOUT HIM! I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU! WHY DELAY OUR WEDDING ANY LONGER?... WE'RE LEAVING RIGHT NOW FOR A NEARBY TROPICAL ISLE! WE'LL BE MARRIED... AND HAVE THE HONEY-MOON THERE!

"**I**T DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO PACK! BUT THEN---AS WE WERE ABOUT TO LEAVE---

IT ALL SEEEMS SO RIDICULOUS NOW---BUT JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT, LET'S SEE WHAT IT WAS THAT RAY TRIED TO MAKE ME BELIEVE ABOUT YOU! IT'S RIGHT IN HERE---

FRAN,
NO!
DON'T...

"**S**TAGGERED UNDER THE IMPACT OF THOSE WORDS, REELED BACK IN HORROR! A BIGAMIST---A MENACE ---AND THIS WAS THE MAN I HAD THOUGHT TO LOVE!"

RAY WAS RIGHT
---NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS DON'T LIE! I---I WAS JUST ANOTHER "UNSUPECTING WOMAN" TO YOU---

ALL RIGHT, IT'S TRUE...SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL LEARN THE WHOLE OF IT! THERE WASN'T MUCH HARM IN USING YOU THE WAY I DID! YOU WERE LOVESTRUCK ENOUGH TO MAKE A PERFECT SUBJECT...AND BEAUTIFUL ENOUGH TO PUT MY ACT OVER WITH A BANG!

OH, DARLING...
DARLING! YOU'VE
MADE ME THE
HAPPIEST GIRL IN
THE WORLD!

FOR NOW
...AND
ALWAYS!

OH, IT'LL ONLY TAKE A MINUTE
---OHHH! NO, NO!

MANFRED
SENTENCED
FOR FRAUD
MANFRED
NOTED
HYPNOTIST
CONVICTED
OF BIGAMY.

JUDGE CALLS
HYPNOTIST MENACE
PREYED ON UN
SUSPECTING WOMEN

I MADE MONEY OUT OF YOU---BUT WHEN I SAW YOUR PICTURE IN A NEW YORK NEWSPAPER THAT REPORTED YOUR MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE, WHEN I FOUND OUT WHO YOU REALLY ARE AND HOW RICH YOU ARE, I REALIZED I'D STUMBLED ON A GOLD-MINE! THAT WAS WHEN I SAID WE'D BE MARRIED---AND WE'RE STILL GOING THROUGH WITH IT!

NO, I WON'T!
YOU CAN'T
MAKE ME
DO IT!

OH, YES, YOU WILL! YOU'RE MY SUBJECT, REMEMBER? YOU CAN'T FIGHT AGAINST MY HYPNOTIC POWER... IT'S BECOME SECOND NATURE WITH YOU! THAT'S WHY YOU'VE GOT TO LOOK INTO MY EYES... LOOK DEEPLY! I AM YOUR MASTER! YOU MUST OBEY ME!

NO... NO...

"THOSE EYES -- TWIN INFERNAL ORBS -- PIERCING MY BRAIN, MY SOUL! DOWN -- DOWN INTO THEIR FIENDISH DEPTHS I SANK -- DRAINED OF ALL WILL -- HELPLESS! YES, HE WAS MY MASTERS AND I, HIS SLAVE!"

YES, I -- I LOVE YOU! I -- WILL MARRY YOU!

YOU LOVE ME... YOU WANT TO MARRY ME... YOU WILL MARRY ME! SAY IT... SAY IT!



EXCELLENT, MY DEAR! AND NOW TO HIRE A BOAT THAT WILL TAKE US TO OUR WEDDING ISLE! THERE'S A MINISTER THERE, AND YOU'LL BE MY WIFE SOON -- MY RICH WIFE!

YOU... WIFE...

LUCKY I PLAYED A HUNCH AND TRAILED THEM! SHE WAS WALKING LIKE SOMEONE WHO WAS DRUGGED -- OR HYPNOTIZED!

QUICK! LET ME HAVE A BOAT THAT'S FAST ENOUGH TO CATCH THE ONE THAT JUST LEFT!

SURE THING! TAKE THE BUOYANT BOY HERE! IT'S THE FASTEST LITTLE BOAT IN THE BAHAMAS!



WHAT THE -- ANOTHER BOAT... COMING AFTER US! AND THE MAN AT THE WHEEL... IT'S THAT NOSEY FRIEND OF HERS!

ALL RIGHT, MANFRED, YOU'VE GONE FAR ENOUGH! I'M TAKING HER BACK! AND DON'T TRY HYPNOTIZING ME -- IT WON'T WORK!

I DON'T ALWAYS RELY ON HYPNOTISM, YOU MEDDLER! I'VE GOT A BETTER WEAPON TO DEAL WITH FOOLS LIKE YOU!





"AS IF FROM SOME DISTANT DREAM WORLD, I HEARD THE VOICE THAT RULED MY MIND AND HEART! ROBOTLIKE, IN A TRANCE, I SEIZED SOME NEARBY OBJECT---LUNGED FORWARD---"



"BUT MY MOMENTUM CARRIED ME FORWARD--- TOO FAR FORWARD!"



"THE SUDDEN SHOCK OF COLD WATER CLEARED MY HEAD, BROUGHT ME BACK TO REALITY! BUT JUST AS I WAS REMEMBERING WHAT HAD HAPPENED, I FROZE WITH HORROR!"



"I WATCHED---UNBELIEVINGLY! IT WAS RAY---RISKING A HORRIBLE DEATH---FOR ME! I'D BEEN SURE HE WAS A MERE FORTUNE-HUNTER, BUT THIS---THIS WAS PROOF OF THE MOST DEVOTED LOVE IN THE WORLD!"





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Gives You A Fuller, Alluring Bustline
Instantly

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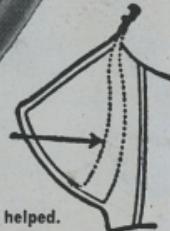
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38



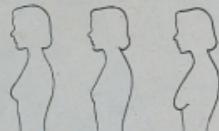
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